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return of the first sick from the Crimea, many of the surgeons seem, through excess of work, almost as exhausted as those under their care. For forty-eight hours many of them have had scarcely a moment's relaxation from their labours. * * It is easy to discover by a walk through the barracks, how much the unfortunate 23rd and 33rd Regiments have suffered. It seems that almost half of those who are lying on every side in mortal agony, belong to one of these ill-fated corps. The 23rd, it is said, has lost more than four hundred men.

SUICIDAL EXCEPTIONS TO PEACE.

Almost every body we meet in these days are Friends of Peace—with *an exception*. 'You are quite right,' says one after another to us, with countenances quite radiant with a consciousness of their own candour, 'you are quite right in regard to the general principle. War is a horrible thing, utterly repugnant to the spirit of Christianity, and inflicting unspeakable evils on humanity. I go with you entirely except——.' But then, as each one has a separate exception in favour of some special conception or crotchet of his own, they become at last so numerous that the poor principle for which each professes great reverence 'in general,' is completely riddled with exceptions. And thus, while the great bulk of our peaceful sympathisers emphatically declare their belief, that a large proportion of the wars recorded in history were utterly unjustifiable, we venture to say, that there is scarcely one of those wars for which a very plausible pretext might not be found under cover of one or other of the exceptions they themselves urge.

Christians of conservative sentiments, for instance, will say—'Oh, yes; war is a great curse and calamity, except when it is necessary to preserve order and put down those vile revolutionists and democrats, who threaten to involve the whole social system in anarchy and ruin.' Friends of liberty, on the other hand, exclaim, 'Yes, yes! war is a shocking thing, except when it is undertaken to advance the cause of struggling democracy, and to overthrow the abominable despotisms which prevent the establishment of free constitutional or republican governments.' Very zealous Protestants, again, who are nightly bestridden with a Jesuit incubus, will tell you, 'No man can abhor war more than we do; but for the sake of destroying the frightful conspiracy against our Protestant faith and freedom which is gathering on the Continent, we should be glad even to see that curse abroad.'

Then come the zealous champions of religious liberty. 'War,' say they, 'is a hideous display of human depravity; but rather than that our ministers should be expelled from Hungary, or the Madiahs be imprisoned for reading the Bible, we are willing that this tide of human depravity should be let forth to inundate Europe.' The advocates of Bible and Missionary Societies will then put in their plea. 'All you say is very true; war is a tremendous scourge, and a bitter sarcasm on the christian doctrine of love; but where there are nations who won't accept the Bible, or admit our missionaries, why then, my dear sir, it may be necessary to send our cannon before us, to prepare the way of the Lord, and open a path for the gospel.'

Next come a band of Christians with strongly prophetic propensities, and urge *their* exceptions. 'War is no doubt, as you affirm, an infinite evil; but according to our scheme of prophetic interpretation, it is absolutely necessary at this time, and therefore, though we of course bewail its calamities, we cannot pray for the continuance of a peace which would only spoil our whole prophetic system.' And so we may go on through an endless assortment of other exceptions. Some will fight for the extension of our commerce, and for nothing else. Some will fight now, because if we don't,

we may be obliged to fight hereafter. Some think it lawful to go to war to avenge a past wrong, and some to anticipate a future danger.

Now, what is curious enough, when any actual event comes to test the value of the 'general principle' which all profess to hold, each one is sure to find in that event his own particular exception. Alas! for those who place much trust in the men who hold a principle with an exception. They are sure to fail them in the very hour of need, like 'the bruised reed, on which, if a man lean, it will go into his hand and pierce it.' What avail eloquent pictures of the horrors of war, and loud declarations in favour of peace, in which we may indulge when the weather is fine, and the heavens are cloudless and serene, if when the storm begins to lower, all our abstract declamations are 'whistled down the wind,' as in no way practically binding upon us in the hour of trial?—*London Herald of Peace.*

MATTERS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

OUR friends are aware that December is the middle of our Society's official and financial year; and we invite their special consideration of a few practical things that need to be attended to in the course of this month. We earnestly hope they will at once give their attention to these matters, decide what ought to be done, and then be sure to do it in season.

STIPULATED ARBITRATION.

PETITIONS TO CONGRESS.—The only way to secure this important measure, as a permanent substitute for war, in our treaties with all nations that are in official intercourse with us, is to persist in our applications to our rulers for it, and in simultaneous efforts to influence the public mind more and more in its favor. Our Society will renew its petition to Congress; and we invite our friends in different parts of the country to co-operate with us by sending from their respective places, *with as little delay as possible*, a petition like the following to each House. It can be easily copied; and every signer should put his name to *two* petitions, one for the Senate, and one for the House of Representatives; the former to be sent to one of your own Senators, or to the Hon. CHARLES SUMNER, and the latter to the Representative from your own district, or to the Hon. JAMES MEACHAM, member of the House from Vermont. Better, if there is no *special* objection, send to your own Senator and Representative.

Form of Petition.—*To the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:*

The undersigned, legal voters in and State of respectfully petition your Honorable Bodies to take such action as you may deem best to secure, in our treaties with all nations with whom we have intercourse, a provision for referring to the decision of umpires, all misunderstandings that cannot be satisfactorily adjusted by amicable negotiation.

An object like this can be gained only by wide and long-continued discussion. Such discussion we cannot get in an effective form without making the subject a matter of debate in Congress. Well does one of our best and wisest friends say on this point, "We want DISCUSSION, and discussion we *must* have, if we would affect public opinion. The floor of Congress is a vast whispering-